

We Claim:

1. A method of transmitting a message from a sender to a recipient through a server displaced from the recipient, including the steps at the server of:

receiving the message at the server from the sender,

transmitting the message from the server to the recipient, and

providing for a transmission of a reply to the sender through the server of the message by the recipient.

2. A method as set forth in claim 1

the message is provided with a unique identification by the server and wherein

the reply from the recipient through the server to the sender is provided on the basis of this unique identification of the message by the server.

3. A method as set forth in claim 2 wherein

the reply by the recipient through the server provides for an identification of each of a plurality of recipients on the basis of individual identifications related to the unique identification of the message.

4. A method as set forth in claim 1 wherein

the message from the sender to the recipient is provided in a particular format at the server.

5. A method as set forth in claim 1 wherein

the reply includes a request from the recipient to receive proof of transmission or delivery of the reply and wherein

the server responds to the request in the reply to provide the proof of the transmission or delivery of the reply to the sender.

6. A method as set forth in claim 1 wherein

the recipient provides a fictional destination address and wherein

the destination address is at the server and wherein

a database associated with the server stores the identity of the message and the identity and address of the sender and wherein

the reply includes an identification of the message and the name and address of the sender and wherein

the server parses the message and the name and address of the sender from the fictional destination address and directs the reply to the sender at the sender's address.

7. A method as set forth in claim 2 wherein

the reply by the recipient through the server provides for an identification of each of a plurality of recipients on the basis of individual identifications related to the unique identification of the message and wherein

the message from the sender to the recipient is provided in a particular format at the server and wherein

the reply includes a request from the recipient to receive proof of transmission or delivery of the reply and wherein

the server responds to the request in the reply to provide the proof of the transmission or delivery of the reply to the sender and wherein

the recipient provides a fictional destination address and wherein

the destination address is at the server and wherein

a database associated with the server stores the identity of the message and the identity and address of the sender and wherein

the reply includes an identification of the message and the name and address of the sender and wherein

the server parses the message and the name and address of the sender from the fictional destination address and directs the reply to the sender at the sender's address.

8. A method of transmitting a message from a sender to a recipient through a server displaced from the recipient, including the steps at the server of:

receiving the message at the server from the sender,

transmitting the message from the server to the recipient,

providing a database identifying the message and the sender including the address of the sender,

locating in the database the identification of the message and the sender, and

transmitting to the sender through the server any reply by the recipient to the sender

9. A method as set forth in claim 8 wherein

the message is provided with a unique identification by the server and wherein

the sender is provided with a unique identification related to the unique identification of the message and wherein

the server determines the identification and address of the sender through the identification of the message and wherein

the server transmits the reply to the address of the sender.

10. A method as set forth in claim 9 wherein

the reply by the recipient through the server provides for an identification of each of a plurality of recipients on the basis of individual identifications related to the individual identification of the message.

11. A method of transmitting a message from a sender to a recipient through a server displaced from the recipient, including the steps of:

receiving the message at the server from the sender,

transmitting the message from the server to the recipient,

providing for a reply from the recipient to the message from the sender through the fictional address of the sender in the database,

recovering the true address of the sender from the fictional address of the sender in the database, and

transmitting the reply through the server to the true address of the sender.

12. A method as set forth in claim 11 wherein

the recipient provides instructions to obtain proof of the delivery of the reply to the sender and proof of content of the reply and wherein

the server provides to the recipient proof of the delivery of the reply to the sender and proof of the content of the reply.

13. A method as set forth in claim 12 wherein

the message is provided with a unique identification by the server and wherein

the reply from the recipient through the server to the sender is provided on the basis of the unique identification of the message by the server.

14. A method of transmitting a message from a sender to a recipient through a server displaced from the recipient, including the steps at the server of:

receiving the message from the sender,

assigning the message a unique identification,

storing the unique identification of the message and the sender address in an address in a database,

sending the message to the recipient,

providing a reply to the message at the recipient,

sending the reply to the server with the unique identification of the message,

extracting the unique identification of the message in the reply,

obtaining the address of the sender from the database on the basis of the unique identification of the message in the database,

re-addressing the reply to the sender, and

sending the reply to the sender.

15. A method as set forth in claim 14 wherein

the server also sends the reply to the recipient to confirm that the recipient has sent the reply to the sender and to confirm the content of the reply.

16. A method as set in claim 14 wherein

there is at least one other addressee in addition to the recipient and wherein

the one other addressee is provided with a unique identification in the unique identification of the message and wherein

the unique identification of the one other addressee is stored in the database and wherein

the reply is indicated to the one other addressee as coming from the recipient on the basis of the unique identification of the one other addressee in the database.

17. A method as set forth in claim 14 wherein

a delivery receipt is generated from the reply from the recipient to the sender and wherein

the delivery receipt is transmitted to the sender and the recipient.

18. A method as set forth in claim 14 wherein

the message is provided with a particular format and wherein

the message is transmitted to the recipient in the particular format

19. A method as set forth in claim 14 wherein

the reply from the recipient is sent registered from the server to the sender and

wherein a delivery receipt is generated for the reply and wherein

the delivery receipt is transmitted to the sender and the recipient.

20. A method as set forth in claim 16 wherein

the server also sends the reply to the recipient to confirm that the recipient has sent the reply to the sender

the message is provided with a particular format and wherein

the message is transmitted to the recipient in the particular format and wherein

the reply from the recipient is sent registered from the server to the sender and
wherein

a delivery receipt is generated for the reply and wherein

the delivery receipt is transmitted to the sender and the recipient.